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Examiner Name	William D. Coleman
Confirmation No.	9417
Attorney Docket No.	400.084US01

COMMUNICATION
REGARDING EXAMINER
INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Title: AGGLOMERATION CONTROL USING EARLY TRANSITION METAL ALLOYS

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Please consider the following remarks regarding the summary of the substance of the Examiner Interview conducted on August 30, 2004.

REMARKS

Examiner's Interview

Applicant respectfully submits that a summary of the substance of the Examiner's Interview, conducted on August 30, 2004, was included in the response, filed on September 13, 2004, to the Final Office Action mailed August 17, 2004. A courtesy copy of the summary of the substance of the Examiner's Interview, filed on September 13, 2004, is enclosed as Exhibit I.

COMMUNICATION REGARDING EXAMINER INTERVIEW SUMMARY

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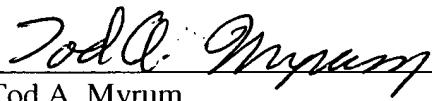
Title: AGGLOMERATION CONTROL USING EARLY TRANSITION METAL ALLOYS

CONCLUSION

If the Examiner has any questions or concerns regarding this application, please contact the undersigned at (612) 312-2208.

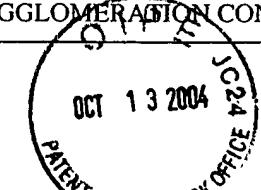
Respectfully submitted,

Date: 10-13-04


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EXHIBIT

REMARKS

Claims 37, 38, 41, and 48 are currently amended. Claims 38, 41, and 48 were amended to conform them to currently amended claim 37. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments contained herein are fully supported by the Specification as originally filed and therefore do not introduce new matter.

Examiner's Interview

Applicant's representative respectfully thanks Examiner William D. Coleman for the courtesy of discussing claim 37 with respect to its rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and its rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, in a telephonic Examiner's interview on August 30, 2004, initiated by Applicant's representative. No agreement was reached with regard to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Examiner Coleman indicated that changing "capable of" to "which can" in claim 37 will overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicant contends that each phrase refers to the ability of the metal components to form a crystalline compound. Applicant thus contends that no change in scope would result from such an amendment.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 37-40 and 44-50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Rathore et al. (U. S. Patent 6,258,710 B1). Applicant respectfully traverses.

Claim 37, as currently amended, includes forming a layer of a metal alloy nitride on the diffusion barrier layer, wherein the metal alloy nitride comprises a first metal component, a second metal component which can form a crystalline compound with the first metal component, and nitrogen.

Applicant carefully reviewed Rathore et al. and found no indication of forming a layer of a metal alloy nitride on the diffusion barrier layer, where the metal alloy nitride comprises a first metal component, a second metal component which can form a crystalline compound with the first metal component, and nitrogen, as in claim 37.

Rathore et al. (column 8, lines 1-38) includes a layer 5 of an adhesive and contact metal, preferably titanium, tantalum, tantalum nitride, tantalum, chromium, tungsten, or any combination of these layers. An optional thermal diffusion barrier layer 6 of material such as